

Claims

1. A disk drive carrier system comprising a plurality of disk drive carriers and a shelf, the shelf defining a plurality of parallel slots shaped to receive the disk driver carriers, each disk drive carrier carrying a disk drive and having a first electrical connector on a first edge of the carrier, said first edge defining an insertion direction for insertion of the carrier into the shelf, the shelf further comprising a plurality of second electrical connectors each disposed to mate with the first electrical connector of a carrier, each disk drive carrier having a first locking part movable between a first position and a second position; the system further comprising a plurality of second locking features each disposed to engage with the first locking part of a carrier if in said first position;

each said carrier further comprising a bezel visible when the first electrical connector of said carrier is mated with said second electrical connector, said bezel defining an opening, each said carrier further comprising the first locking part rotatable about an axis between said first and second positions, said first locking part being non-opaque, said first locking part rotation axis being parallel with said insertion direction, a portion of said first locking part visible through said opening, the visible portion of the first locking part shaped to present different appearances when in said first and second positions;

each said carrier further comprising a first light source positioned with respect to a feature of the first locking part such that said first light source is juxtaposed with said feature in one of said first and second positions but not in another of said first and second positions, whereby when the first light source is juxtaposed, light from the first light source is emitted from the visible portion of the first locking part.

2. The system of claim 1 further comprising a second light source positioned with respect to the feature of the first locking part such that said second light source is juxtaposed with said feature in the other of said first and second positions but not in the one of said first and second positions,

whereby when the second light source is juxtaposed, light from the second light source is emitted from the visible portion of the first locking part.

3. The system of claim 1 wherein the first locking part rotates through substantially ninety
5 degrees.

4. The system of claim 1 wherein the first locking part is transparent.

5. The system of claim 1 wherein the first locking part is translucent.

10 6. A method for use with a disk drive carrier system comprising a plurality of disk drive carriers and a shelf, the shelf defining a plurality of parallel slots shaped to receive the disk driver carriers, each disk drive carrier carrying a disk drive and having a first electrical connector on a first edge of the carrier, said first edge defining an insertion direction for insertion of the carrier into the
15 shelf, the shelf further comprising a plurality of second electrical connectors each disposed to mate with the first electrical connector of a carrier, each disk drive carrier having a first locking part movable between a first position and a second position; the system further comprising a plurality of second locking features each disposed to engage with the first locking part of a carrier if in said first position; each said carrier further comprising a bezel visible when the first electrical
20 connector of said carrier is mated with said second electrical connector, said bezel defining an opening, each said carrier further comprising the first locking part rotatable about an axis between said first and second positions, said first locking part being non-opaque, said first locking part rotation axis being parallel with said insertion direction, a portion of said first locking part visible through said opening, the visible portion of the first locking part shaped to present different
25 appearances when in said first and second positions; each said carrier further comprising a first light source positioned with respect to a feature of the first locking part such that said first light source is juxtaposed with said feature in one of said first and second positions but not in another of said first and second positions, whereby when the first light source is juxtaposed, light from the first light source is emitted from the visible portion of the first locking part; the method

comprising the steps of:

rotating the first locking part of a carrier from the first position to the second position; and

5 removing the carrier from a respective slot of the shelf.

7. The method of claim 6 further comprising the steps of:

inserting a carrier into the respective slot of the shelf; and

10 rotating the first locking part of the carrier from the second position to the first position.

15 8. A method for use with a disk drive carrier system comprising a plurality of disk drive carriers and a shelf, the shelf defining a plurality of parallel slots shaped to receive the disk driver carriers, each disk drive carrier carrying a disk drive and having a first electrical connector on a first edge of the carrier, said first edge defining an insertion direction for insertion of the carrier into the shelf, the shelf further comprising a plurality of second electrical connectors each disposed to mate with the first electrical connector of a carrier, each disk drive carrier having a first locking part movable between a first position and a second position; the system further comprising a
20 plurality of second locking features each disposed to engage with the first locking part of a carrier if in said first position; each said carrier further comprising a bezel visible when the first electrical connector of said carrier is mated with said second electrical connector, said bezel defining an opening, each said carrier further comprising the first locking part rotatable about an axis between said first and second positions, said first locking part being non-opaque, said first locking part
25 rotation axis being parallel with said insertion direction, a portion of said first locking part visible through said opening, the visible portion of the first locking part shaped to present different appearances when in said first and second positions; each said carrier further comprising a first light source positioned with respect to a feature of the first locking part such that said first light source is juxtaposed with said feature in one of said first and second positions but not in another

of said first and second positions, whereby when the first light source is juxtaposed, light from the first light source is emitted from the visible portion of the first locking part; the method comprising the steps of:

5 inserting a carrier into a respective slot of the shelf; and

rotating the first locking part of the carrier from the second position to the first position.

9. The method of claim 8 further comprising the steps of:

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rotating the first locking part of the carrier from the first position to the second position; and

removing the carrier from the respective slot of the shelf.